

GRAUSTARK

#243

1970J, 1970W, 1970BB, 1970BN, 1970BQ

17 July 1971

ITALIAN FORCES VICTORIOUS!

The fifth of the six new games begun early in 1970 has ended, with a decisive victory by Robert J. Ward as Italy. The ending of 1970W is rather unusual, in that it was accomplished after a Spring rather than a Fall move. Italy ended "Fall 1910" with 17 units and supply centers, as against an equal number for the other four surviving players combined. In "Spring 1911" Italy attacked two French forces which, having no retreat, were annihilated. Thus Italy now has 17 units out of 32 on the board. With a majority of the pieces on the board (Rulebook, p. 1), Italy has won.

ENGLAND (Walker): F Iri-Mid; F Lon-Eng; F Norwegian Sea-Bar; F Norway S F Norwegian Sea-Bar.

FRANCE (Vest): F Por-Mid; F Bre S F Por-Mid; A Bur-Bel.

GERMANY (McCallum): A Kie-Mun; A Hol-Bel; F Swe-holds; F Bal-Kie.

ITALY (Ward): F Mid-Por; F Spa(s.c.) S F Mid-Por; F Wes-Mid; F North Africa S F Wes-Mid; A Pic-Bre; A Par S A Pic-Bre; A Gas S A Par; A Mar, F Tun, & A Apr hold; A Tyr-Mun; A Ser-Rum; A Pic-Tyr; A Smy-Arm; A Bud-Gal; A Ven-Tri; A Rom-Tus.

RUSSIA (C. Johnson): No moves received. F St-P(n.c.), A Livonia, A Fin, A Pru, A Ber, & A Sil hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French fleets in Portugal and Brest are dislodged and annihilated.

Entry in 1970W was not available for cash down, but was limited to the winners of various quiz contests that ran in GRAUSTARK. Probably for this reason, a more dedicated group was obtained, and there were no drops from the game through failure to send in moves.

Of the 1970W players, the subscriptions of Robert Ward and Charles Johnson expire with this issue, and that of Jay Kimmel with #254. Other players are in other games, or receive GRAUSTARK by trade.

The supply center chart and roster appear below. Abbreviations and annotations are explained in GRAUSTARK #239.

Of the five games of this group, two were won by Italy, two by Turkey, and one by France. Winners were John Beshara (twice), Robert Strayor, George Grayson, & Robert Ward.

Final press releases are in #244.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10		1970W - John Boardman, GM
												E	- Jay Kimmel (res F06)
													Rod Walker
E	3	4	5	5	4	4	3	2	3	3	4	F	- Charles Vest
F	3	4	5	5	7	8	8	7	4	4	3	G	- John McCallum
G	3	5	5	6	5	3	2	3*	2	3	4	I	- Robert Ward (won S11)
I	3	5	7	8	10	11	13*	14	16*	16	17	A	- Mike Aita (out F03)
A	3	5	1									R	- Ron Salcedo (res S10)
R	4	5	6	6	4	6	7	8	9	8	6		Charles Johnson
T	3	4	5	4	4	2	1					T	- George Grayson (out F07)

1970J

"Fall 1913"

TURKS STRIKE BACK AT ITALIANS

ENGLAND (Richard Miller): F Bot-St.P(s.c.); F Spa(n.c.)-Por; F Mid S F Spa(n.c.)-Por; A St.P-Liv; F Eng & F North Sea hold; A Pic-Par; A Bro S A Pic-Par; A Bel-Bur; AMun-Ber; A Sil-Mun; A Ruh-Mun; A Pru S A St.P-Liv.

GERMANY (Burley): A Ukr-Sev; A Mos S A Ukr-Sev.

ITALY (Comber): No moves received. A Bur, F Tyr, F Ion, F Adr, F Gro, A Tri, A Alb, A Ser, A Bud, & A Gal hold. F Por & A Bul dislodged and annihilated.

TURKEY (Aita): F Aeg-Bul(s.c.); A Rum & F Con S F Aeg-Bul(s.c.); A Sev S A Rum; F Bla S A Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. Turkey retreats A Sev-Arm. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Ber, Bro, Den, Edi, ITALY: Bud, Gre, Mar, Nap, Rom, Ser, Hol, Kie, Liv, Lon, Mun, Nor, Spa, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vic. (11)
Par, Por, St.P, Swe. (15) TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Rum, Smy. (5)
GERMANY: Mos, Sev, War. (3)

England may build 2 new units and Italy may build one. The English builds are already in; the Italian one should be phoned in AT ONCE, and all players will be informed of them. The deadline for "Spring 1914" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 31 JULY 1971.

No stand-by will be called on for Italian moves, since the Gamesmaster is satisfied that the present player will submit his next moves.

BORE-A-BORE-A: Rodney the Squawker, Court Jester and all that, having finally recovered from a partial tracheotomy forcibly administered at the Eric Blake Memorial Hospital two months ago, has finally met reporters here for the first time. "It is unfortunate," he said, "but nevertheless true that I have been impersonated by none other than Dickmiller Gollum, Minister of the Inferior and Head Scold of the Realm. In real life, however, it turns out that he is Water Boy, Chamber-Pot Emptier, and Chief Flunky for the Arabian Embassy. It was he who made up the stories about a war with the Arbas. Actually, there is none. True, we have made some rather negative statements about them in the press, but that hardly amounts to warfare. Gollum and his Arab employers are too thin-skinned. Oh, well, when one aspires to deification..." Reporters express surprise that such a person existed in Bore-a-Bore-a. "Why, of course," was the reply. "He is heart and soul of the Kingdom - it's named after him." (More press releases in the next issue.)

1970BQ

"Winter 1904"

Following "Fall" moves, as displaying a singularly broad interpretation of the words "as quickly as possible", France retreated A Pic-Bur. ENGLAND (Beshara): Builds A Lon, ITALY (Gletty): No retreat received. A Edi, F Liv. Gamesmaster removes F Eas.

GERMANY (G. Jones): Builds A Ber, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Mischel): Builds A A Mun. TURKEY (Vest): Removes F Smy. Bud.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 31 JULY 1971. Hugh Anderson, the stand-by, should send in Italian moves. See #240 for his address.

Gary Jones has resumed the rule of Germany in this game. See p. 12 for the circumstances and for his new address.

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I failed to mention that John Beshara is the editor of Larry Peery's new 'zine, for which details see p. 12.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN DEAL???

ISSHEMEAL-KEP: MJIX said that he was moving to Issmeal-Gaka for the fall. By fall we believe he meant fall of his Empire & Isshemeal-Kep. As the Harem girls have all the men tied up.

1970BB

"Spring 1908"

NEW RUSSIAN HIGH COMMAND RALLIES

ENGLAND (Lasky): F North Sea holds; F Norwegian Sea S F North Sea.

FRANCE (Mischel): F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; F Mar S F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; A Bur-Mun; A Ruh S A Bur-Mun; F North Atlantic-Mid; F Eng S F North Atlantic-Mid; F Ska holds.

GERMANY (Isby): A Kie-Ber.

ITALY (Comber): F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); F Wes S F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); F Tyr-Lyo; A Pie-Mar.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Nierenberg): F Smy-Con; F Bas-Ion; F Tri-Adr; A Mun S A Ber; A Ber S A Mun; A Rum-Ukr; A Gal S A Rum-Ukr; A War-Mos; A Bud-Rum; A Bul S A Bud-Rum; A Vie-Boh.

RUSSIA (Richard Miller, vice Shuldiner): F Bal S GERMAN A Kie-Bar; A Swe-Fin; F Den-Swe; F Norway-Swe; A Mos-War; A Pru S A Mos-War; A Ukr S A Mos-War; A Sev S A Ukr.

Underlined moves are not possible. France retreats F Spa(s.c.)-Por and Austria-Hungary retreats A Mun, A Ber, & A War. The deadline for "Fall 1908" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 26 JULY 1971. The direction of these retreats are due forthwith.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"Let us not underestimate the value of Martha Mitchell. She's the best barometer we have to warn us of the political storms ahead. What the wife of the Attorney General babbles in public today invariably turns out to be high level policy tomorrow." -- Harriet van Horne, New York Post, 14 July 1971

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A plastic guillotine kit, available in many toy stores, is one of several toys and games currently causing a flap between the Toy Manufacturers of America and various newcomers to the Nader bandwagon. (New York Times, 12 July 1971) They include not only physically dangerous items like the guillotine, toy electric irons, cap pistols, hypodermic needles, and the now-outlawed "clackers", but also "psychologically damaging playthings" including not only the blade and the needle but also "kits containing simulated human organs with painted blood dripping from them" and a game called "Bounce Your Eye-ball". This article, by Grace Lichtenstein, is mainly a publicity puff for a book entitled Toys that Don't Care, by Edward M. Swartz, a Boston lawyer who specializes in damage suits against toy manufacturers.

However, the damage may not be as great as Swartz believes. On the previous day, the Times cited a report from the Financial Times of London that there may be a "link between stock market uncertainty and the current controversy over anatomically explicit education films". According to a letter from R. Moss of Blarney, Ireland, "I see toy shares are down. Presumably the children are now all happily occupied with sex."

Well, not all of them. A woman from West Germany was recently arrested in Innsbruck, Austria, for leading a shoplifting team that consisted of her, her 8-year-old daughter, and a large teddy bear with a hidden flap in its tummy. While Mutti distracted the attention of jewelry store clerks, the girl stuffed Teddy with whatever could be fit inside.

After the arrest, Teddy was confiscated by the local police museum, his days of crime ended. (New York Post, 14 July 1971)

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Who said, in 1951: "American imperialism has moves from the stage of war preparations and war talk...to intervention against the peoples of Vietnam"? (Answer next issue.)

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

[As always, letters in this letter column are published in approximately the order that they work their way to the top of the heap. Dates, when they appear on the letter, are given. Comments of the editor appear in square brackets.]

ROD WALKER, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116 (18 August 1966): I have not said much about the Vietnam business because I felt, as you know, that this type of heated issue ought to be left out of postal diplomacy play. However, I am moved to comment because, so far as I can tell, none of your readers, hawks and doves alike, have any conception of the issues involved. I was particularly disgusted by one writer who viewed this thing as a race war, a notion which could only appeal to the untutored and/or warped mind.

["...little yellow dwarves..." - Lyndon B. Johnson, 1948]

First of all, I will state flatly that, in my opinion, the war has nothing whatever to do with communism, or the preservation of "democracy" in Vietnam, or anything of that sort. The war exists because of the existence of a powerful, united, militant, and growing China. The fact that there is a communist government in China is incidental to the situation. If Chiang Kai-shek had united China, we would now be fighting him instead of Mao Tse-tung & Co. The realities and consequences of national power know no politics; politics are weapons used to sway minds and cloud issues in the interest of national power.

["Laval's great failing, despite his realism, was his blindness to one reality which he never could grasp, the power of ideas. His incapacity to understand the pull of ideas lulled him into a fantasy world... Only the pure 'realist' is capable of such self-deception. He never realized that his 'order' was a flimsy fabric, which his opponents realized immediately. Although Laval saw behind the masks of ideologies, Communist, National Socialist, or Western Democratic, he never saw the reality of the emotions, needs and driving force which make people willing to fight for, and even die for, such ideologies. Sometimes convictions, and not conditions, are decisive. Sometimes the social order of society has been so profoundly shaken that only bloodletting will restore it." - Margret Boveri, Treason in the Twentieth Century]

It is manifestly obvious that China wishes to revive her ancient empire and her former position as the "Middle Kingdom". She wishes control over Southeast Asia, Korea, Japan, and vast areas in Siberia and central Asia - as a minimum. [There has to be, somewhere in the central planning room of the Pentagon, a well-worn complete set of the works of Sax Rohmer, next to an equally well-worn set of the works of Homer Lea.] Now, peace in our time depends upon two things: control of international disputes and of things (famine, disease, &c.) which cause such disputes, and the prevention of national expansion by use of force or threat of force. It is to the latter that our actions in Vietnam are addressed. We have long been committed to a policy of preventing the expansion of China by force. We opposed it in Korea and are opposing it in Laos and Vietnam.

Now, I will grant that there are elements in Vietnam which were, in 1954, dissatisfied with the Government and who still are. It is clear, however, that China and North Vietnam have wrought these elements into a fighting force capable of producing a bogus "civil war" - in fact directed and financed from outside. Under current circumstances, it is useless to argue the authenticity of this "civil war" or the question of which "government" would be best for Vietnam or which side is more "democratic" or that sort of triviality. It is a plain fact that Vietnam can exist only as a satellite.

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

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either of the United States or of China and that the only purpose of the war in Vietnam - whether it be "civil" or otherwise - is to decide who shall be master of Vietnam.

It is ridiculous to imagine, as do the isolationists, that we can retreat to a "fortress America" and there subsist for long - or, as do the neo-isolationists, that the United States has no "right" to "meddle" in the affairs of other nations. We are, for better or worse, the greatest power on the globe, and it is axiomatic of power that it must be used or it will wither.

But how have we used our power? Have we used it to annex the non-entities of Canada and Mexico, as we could have easily? [If "annex" is interpreted in an economic rather than a political sense, this is precisely what has happened.] Did we use it in 1946 to overawe the world, make a colony out of Europe, and reduce the Soviet Union to impotence? I suggest that we have used our power sparingly and with great restraint. It is tempting, as a few right-wing nuts have suggested, to attack the Chinese mainland or to invade North Vietnam. We have wisely recognized, however, that North Vietnam rightfully belongs under Chinese influence, as it is a sensitive border area. Those who say we have acted hastily or imprudently would do well to examine what we could have done before they make such a ridiculous accusation.

As to the so-called atrocities one hears about, I suggest that a few isolated incidents, even if true, do not discredit an entire operation. During wartime, chance alone would dictate the occurrence of a few accidents and incidents which we would call atrocities. There were many on the allied side during World War II - including the accidental bombing of Prague and a number of incidents in France. Yet no one would claim that, because of these, we should have stopped the war against Germany.

China is our modern Nazi Germany. The philosophy which she has espoused is no less loathsome than Nazism, and her leaders are no less determined to rule lands not rightfully theirs than was Adolf Hitler. And, I might add, the claims made on behalf of the Viet Cong are no more real than the claims once made by Berlin on behalf of the Sudeten Germans. As we have learned to our great sorrow, the appetite of expansionist nations is not appeased, but rather grows, with eating. The mere fact that China is now a Power, regardless of her form of government, is a threat to the peace and security of all nations.

[One would think, from this paragraph, that Chinese combat troops were active in Indochina.]

I do not for a minute share the sympathies of those misbegotten souls who prate about "fighting communism" or the United States as being rightfully and forever the guardian of all that is good and pure. However, we are the only nation in the world with the power and the will to preserve order and stability. I do not think we can abandon that course without risking another world war or the dissolution of modern civilization in bloody violence.

I regret very much that some of the most disreputable and repulsive elements in our society have joined the debate on Vietnam and turned it into a shouting match. A more sober debate on relevant issues would have been more meaningful. I suggest, in any event, that the President of the United States, a mature individual in possession of facts which, for reasons of national security, cannot be made public, is in a much better position to judge what must be done than any of us. I further suggest that the fact that the vast and overwhelming majority of the Congress of the United States has supported the President's actions should not be discounted so cavalierly as is usually done.

WALTER BUCHANAN, R. R. 3, Lebanon, Ind. 46052 (14 June 1971): I have just about exhausted any sources I know for back issue GRAUSTARKs. I'm still missing 1-16, 18, 20-42, 45, 46, 49, & 54. If you could advertise I'll pay any reasonable price for these in GRAU I'd sure appreciate it.

[Consider it done. Anyone with these issues should get in touch with Buchanan.]

JOHN McCALLUM, P. O. Box 52, Ralston, Alberta (14 May 1971): Was interested in your item "Editorial Afterword" [in #238]. Note, however, that there are far more important matters concerning the rulebook than the philosophical approach to "The Coastal Crawl". See, in particular, the paragraph at the bottom of the enclosed Seren-Dip [#75, 6 May 1971, p. 3]. In light of what Wells has unearthed almost all versions of Diplomacy are, in some rare circumstances, unplayable. The game as played in GRAUSTARK is the nearly unique exception in being always playable. The proposed versions of the new rulebook - both the latest Manion draft now under discussion, and the Beshara version which he, at least, is discussing - both lead to a game which has unresolved positions. This is not a mere matter, like Koning's rule, of two rival interpretations, either of which leads to a playable game. There are positions which cannot be decided at all under the draft, or drafts.

[Further specifications of these positions, with examples, would be most useful. And since this letter was written, Tony Pandin has turned up a highly unlikely but neatly entangled position unresolvable even by the Calhamer rules and their GRAUSTARK interpretation. This position will be discussed as soon as space permits.]

CHRIS ALMSTRÖM, P. O. Box 441, Whitehorse, Yukon (20 April 1971): As for your question "Why is William L. Calley Jr. still alive?" I have learned never to discuss race, religion, politics, Lt. Calley, or the coastal crawl.

ROD WALKER (22 June 1971): Re: your comments to Cohen (GRAU #241, p. 5): To my knowledge, there is no city, nor has there ever been, named Wogastisburg. I presume you are thinking of Wolgast, the capital of the Pomeranian Duchy of the same name. I can provide a list of the Dukes (and did in my Augustan article, "Where Have All the Barnims Gone?").

[Wogastisburg was the chief city of a short-lived West Slavic confederacy of the middle 7th century. It was located near the present sites of Dresden and Leipzig, in Saxony. The West Slavic tribes were united under the rule of a Frankish merchant named Samo, sometime around 620, to fight off Avar raids. Later, a Frankish army was defeated by Samo's forces near Wogastisburg. References: Recent Archaeological Finds in Czechoslovakia, p. 25, Orbis, Prague, 1966; Hammond Historical Atlas, Maplewood, N. J., 1968]

As a matter of curiosity, Eric Just writes that computations which he has done indicate that Pandemonium Press numbers will pass OPERATION AGITATION numbers on the High Holy Day of Diplomacy, 1 April 1972.

[I am not surprised. Other amateur publishers have already attained higher publication numbers; I believe that Bruce Pelz is over 500 by now.]

ANDREW PHILLIPS, 128 Oliver St., Daly City, Calif. 94014 (9 June 1971): I fail to understand why you feel the mass detentions in Washington should arouse in me any great feelings of Outrage. As far as I can see, it's no skin off my back. If I don't want to be discomfited, I'm gonna stay away from places where I think there's going to be a rumble. Maybe some Innocents got rumbled in Washington, but avoiding accidents is a percentage game where you never say "at all costs", and really mean it, because you can't afford to. I remain unconvinced that Washington put that ledger seriously out of balance.

[I doubt that anyone reading recent issues of GRAUSTARK could infer that I am trying to drum up sympathy for the Washington demonstrators of late April and early May. They deserve precisely as much sympathy as does a man who sticks his arm into a lion's cage and pokes the beast with a sharp stick.

[The lesson of Kent State has not been lost on me, I assure you. I am quite aware of the fact that our masters in Washington have the power to imprison or kill anyone who opposes the war, or any of their other po-

licies. Whether they also have the "right" to do so is unimportant. And to be distressed about these facts is about as relevant as a diaper service in Retirement Village.

[Under these circumstances, those who talk about no longer relevant 18th-century "constitutional rights" are doing the public a serious disservice. Many people fail to realize that these "constitutional rights" are now in the category of laws, framed for a now-obsolete set of conditions, which are still on the books but which the executive and judicial authorities pay no attention to. (Some older readers may remember that Collier's once carried a regular column about these laws.)

[During the demonstrations, New York Post columnist Al Aronowitz observed that "Someone, somewhere, wants another Kent State." Certainly the forces of revolution want more martyrs, and the forces of repression want more victims. But to talk about "constitutional rights" can only add to the number of victims. If people are told that they have "constitutional rights" to demonstrate against war, it will only serve to make more victims available to the guns, clubs, and dogs of the police or army.]

Has OperAgit pubbed anything besides GRAU lately?

[Only various publications for the Society for Creative Anachronism. One of them, PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM #1, went out with GRAUSTARK #241. A complete set of TABARD (5 issues) and other S. C. A. material is available for 50¢.]

TONY PANDIN, 10406 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44104 (4 May 1971): In the course of developing a computer gamesmastering program, I discovered the enclosed situation which I have named Pandin's Paradox. There is no solution to this situation which is consistent with the basic rules of Diplomacy. Would you please publish this situation in GRAUSTARK and ask your readers to send me their opinions and comments on it? I would appreciate your own opinion on how this situation should be resolved...Mr. Wells here in Cleveland has said that this is the first situation which arises from the basic rules structure and has no solution. This situation points out an area where the basic rules of Diplomacy come into conflict. There should be a great deal of discussion on this before a solution is agreed upon by the Diplomacy players.

ENGLAND: A Wal-Bel; F Eng C A Wal-Bel; F Lon S F Eng.

FRANCE: F Mid-Eng; F Bre S F Mid-Eng.

GERMANY: F Hol-North Sea; F Bel S F Hol-North Sea.

RUSSIA: A Norway-Lon; F North Sea C A Norway-Lon.

[This paradox is just that - and Pandin is to be congratulated for posing such a tightly constructed problem. A little examination shows that there is indeed no resolution of these moves consistent with the Rulebook. If these moves came to me for adjudication, I would judge that nobody goes anywhere - not because such a judgment could be justified from the Rulebook, for no judgment of this situation can be so justified. But, in a dubious case like this, I would feel that as little motion as possible would be the best resolution.]

MICHAEL MONAHAN, 15 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia (21 Feb. 1971): I think that I will clear up a few of the misconceptions that you have shown in your replies to my 2 letters [in GRAUSTARKs #223 & #230]. (Rise and do battle.)

First: 41/46 meant that the government [of one of the Maritime Provinces] had 41 of the 46 seats in the house before the election. (They held 21 out of 46 after.) I'm sorry if you were confused; I was, as usual, taking a short cut.

The Protestants ARE a majority in Northern Ireland. [Not in all six counties, surely.] I can't quote the actual figures at the moment but I have checked in a geography text that informed me that "...the northerners were predominantly Protestant."...

You also comment that if, or when, the north is reunited to the south that several million Irish authors can be banned in the north as they ARE in

the south. Well it is true that these authors WERE banned in the south but it is not true that all of them ARE banned in the south now. While we were in Dublin in '68 O'Casey was produced at the Abbey and there was no trouble finding Joyce in the bookstores. [Ulysses?] I am not saying that these censorings did not happen or that they were not stupid but I doubt that these things will be seriously worried about among the great problems of the likely reunification.

I will be the first to admit that Eire has many problems and I, too, am disturbed by the Irish Government's recent emergency powers but I think that to consider Ireland a semi-feudal country run by a 'synod of bishops' is to misread the situation in Eire. Eire is mainly Catholic but the government does not permit the church to maintain a dominating role in politics. But, as it is a Catholic country, there is a connection between the feelings of the representatives of the people and the faith of the people.

[In recent years the Roman Catholic church in the US has demonstrated vast gulfs between the bishops and the priests, and between the clergy and the laity. A democratic country seems to have an erosive effect upon the allegedly "monolithic" church of Rome. I have no doubt that such differences of opinion exist in Ireland also. The feelings of the Catholic laity in Ireland may be quite different from the "official" viewpoint that is presented whenever the bishops lecture Parliament on some pending issue of public policy.]

Turning to your comments on Québec: I am afraid that the wildest dreams of the Québec radicals are shared by about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population. For the PQ gained 23% of the popular vote in the last elections. The PQ is a socialist party and, as the only party that supports separation, it will be the government of any independent Québec. So your fantasy about the nature of the government of the Republic of Québec is a little far fetched. You speak of the peasants in the boondocks - to the limited extent that they exist they support the Creditists, the strongest pro-Federal party in Québec. (Strongest in the sense: 'My country right or wrong.') I am not a supporter of the PQ and think that it represents a foolish path for Québec BUT neither do I think that independence will bring the absurd situation that you imply [with conservative clericalists outvoting the PQ]. Duplessis' 'Silent Majority' died with him and Québec has changed with the times. Unlike people who seem to think that any Catholic country is a feudal theocracy run from Rome. (You should talk to the 'Rev.' Ian Paisley - but don't mention that you aren't in the New Orange Lodge or he might turn on you.)

[Ian Paisley doesn't turn me on. I know which side of the Wall my people stood on in 1690 - but Paisley and his followers are degrading a noble tradition. In this they compare with the defenders of Londonderry as the 'Minute Men' of today compare with those of 1776. And Catholic policy in places where Catholicism is the religion of a disadvantaged and persecuted group - Ireland and Québec - is a far cry from Catholic policy in other countries. Who would be so foolish as to believe that the Catholics of the US, France, or Italy take their direction in political matters from the See of Rome?]

You mention the laws concerning inciting riots as a reason why laws against talking about war (or advocating war) should be introduced. Fine, but do you support the laws on inciting to riot? I think that you will admit that the laws on inciting to riot are very hard to enforce and are often used to imprison people unliked by the government. The government can get away with this because these laws are vague and basically violations of the right of freedom of speech.

[True - but under the circumstances there is little that can be done about it. We might all agree that it would be nice to have laws punishing incitement to war, or executing war criminals like Calley, Johnson, Medina, and Nixon. It would be nice to have a formal treaty of peace with the people of Vietnam, or a group libel law, or a real choice in a presidential

election. But no one seriously imagines that we are going to get such a thing. Such discussions merely spin cobwebs about the Ideal Commonwealth, in the fashion of More or Campanella or Streit. We have about as much chance of putting them into effect, as we have of punishing anyone for the Kent State massacre.]

...The tone of this letter was not set by any basic dislike of you, but rather stemmed from my personal belief that you are making a mistake in some of your views. But you still have many interesting views and GRAUSTARK is the only Diplomacy magazine that I would buy even if I didn't like Diplomacy.

(21 May 1971): Thank you very much for agreeing that I had my facts right - but one question. What does it really matter that the Protestants are 'only' a majority in 50%-67% of the counties. After all they only represent about 67% of the population, and one of the things that has been causing trouble has been their attempt to prevent Catholics from gaining power in the area that they do have a majority. And as for the fact that certain books are still censored, I agree that that is a deplorable position but doesn't the US have laws against 'pornography'?

...One final word on Ireland. It is Poblacht Na H'Eireann, or Eire, or the Republic of Ireland - but it is incorrect to call it the 'Free State' - that was ended with the declaration of a Republic and the name denoted a specific relationship between Ireland and the United Kingdom that no longer exists.

YOU are not certain what would come from the ballot boxes of an independent Québec - welcome to the club that includes all Canadians right down to the PQ. But I very much doubt that it will include the splintering you suggest. Really, 6-7 parties?...And as to the chances of separation occurring, the editor of Le Devoir, Claude Ryan, thinks that they are 50-50. I am not that pessimistic but Claude Ryan knows a lot more about Québec than me, or, I suspect, you. But I do think that you have hit an important point related to the PQ: - it is united by two things, the desire for separation and its leader. I doubt that even René could keep that party together if separation occurs. In fact I think that the PQ might well fall to pieces in the face of what will have to be a very divided community. Couple to that you have the fact that the FLQ would only redouble its activity if it thought that part of its dream was coming true and you have the stage set for real tragedy.

It would seem that the pages of GRAUSTARK are to be used to fight another of those feuds in. It seems like a waste of good space to me - but then my dealings with gods have been limited to myself and you. A poor selection, don't you agree?

Don't worry, I have every plan to continue to enjoy GRAUSTARK, the only Diplomacy journal that I buy for its non-diplomacy content.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Rod Walker announces that Diplogrok, a genzine sponsored by the NFFFGBDD, began publication last month. Subscriptions are 8 issues for \$1.00 to Gary Jones, 525 Perrylee, Gallatin, Tenn. 37066. Issue #1 will contain an article by John Boardman on how GRAUSTARK is put together, "a fascinating insight into how this nation's foremost Gamesmaster does it". It will also feature "How to Play the Youngstown Variant" by Rod Walker, a strategic analysis of this country's most popular variant by one of its designers and a Youngstown Variant postal Gamesmaster since 1968. Future issues will contain Diplomacy columns by Eugene Prosnitz, a new rating system by Gary Jones, and features and articles from the pens of many postal Diplomacy people. In addition, Diplogrok carries the Grudge Game, the game of feuders which John Beshara "was afraid to join". (Thus Walker.) Playing in this bloody game of games, known more prosaically as "1971BC", will be Gene Prosnitz, Charles Reinsel, Buddy Tretick, Len Lakofka, Rod Walker, Hal Naus, and John Smythe, seven of the country's best players according to

to the latest Beyerlein Poll. Also, Diplogrok will carry other postal games (which may eventually move to another 'zine if general articles become sufficiently numerous.) The game fee is \$5; \$4 to members of TDA or NFFFGBDD.

Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116, announces a new 'zine, Caphtor. It will carry Imperialism IX-R, a variant originally developed in 1966 and played postally during 1966-69, and especially revised for revival at this time. It is a game of the Peloponnesian War, featuring Superpower Persia, Great Powers Attika and Lakonia, and Lesser Powers Argolis, Boeotia, Epiros, Ionia, Makedonia, and Thessaly. Different victory criteria equalize the Powers as they are forced to seek alliances often contrary to their best interests, trade supply centers, and try to fend off the Persian giant that never dies (but has a hard time expanding). Country assignments are by choice. The game fee is \$5; \$4 for NFFFCRDD, IFW, or TDA members.

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There were the usual typos in the last issue. In Brenton Ver Ploeg's German press release in 1970BQ, the name "Buddy" was misprinted "Bussy". And the new tennis champion from Australia is Eyonne Goolagong. And, in the momentous events of the week of 27 June-3 July, I left out one which is likely to affect Diplomacy fans considerably - the formal "inauguration of the United States Postal Service, the "semi-public corporation" which will now carry the mail. The USPS will thus replace the old Post Office Department, a patently socialistic enterprise, by an authority which will maintain the same high standards of efficiency that we have come to expect from Bell Telephone, Consolidated Edison, and General Electric.

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GRAUSTARK is published on alternate Saturdays by John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226; 212-0X 3-1579 or 212-780-5445. Copies are 15¢ each or 8 for \$1.00 (or 12 for \$1.00). A letter "S" in the upper right corner of the address label means that this is a sample copy, inviting you to subscribe. The following back issues are available at 15¢ each or 10 for \$1.00: 71, 82, 87, 103, 106, 108-111, 114, 117-120, 123, 127-129, 131, 132, 137, 139, 140, 147, 148, 150, 167, 170, 171, 183, 191, 193, 195-212, 215-217, 219, 221-225, 227-232, 234, 237, 239-242. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

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Who says America isn't the Land of Opportunity? Where else could a semi-literate immigrant laborer score as many kills as the great Lieutenant Calley?

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The Society for Creative Anachronism is a bunch of people who like to dress up in costumes of the Middle Ages or the Renaissance (though any era prior to 1650 will do) and show off their knowledge of such bygone arts as combat with (wooden) broadsword and shield, heraldry, courtly etiquette, donnei, and medieval music, verse, and drama. Persons interested in further detail should write to Elliot K. Shorter, P. O. Box 309, Jerome Avenue Station, Bronx, N. Y. 10468. Pennoncel, the approximately monthly publication of the SCA's East Kingdom, is \$3 per year from Shorter. Subscribers also receive announcements of SCA events in the New York area. Other parts of the country have their own SCA "Kingdoms"; on the west coast write to Society for Creative Anachronism Ltd., 2815 Forest Ave., Berkeley, Calif. 94705.

My own SCA publications are TABARD, which ran to 5 issues and ended up last October, and PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM. A complete set of TABARD, together with other SCA publications and as many issues of PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM as may be available, are 50¢. (Copies of #IV are running low, though.) Send orders for TABARD, etc., to John Boardman.

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Sorry about the stencil on which p. 10 of the last issue was cut.

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Larry Peery, 750 I Avenue, Coronado, Calif. 92118, announces a new postal Diplomacy publication, Peeryara. It will run one game, 1971BG, with press releases. It is free to subscribers to Xenogogic, which is \$5 per year. Following the completion of the game, Peery will publish a folio with a move-by-move analysis including comments from players. This game will use GRAUSTARK house rules with the addition of Miller's rule.

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"Italian naval thought had accepted the theories of 'command of the seas' but had also realistically assumed that Italy was not likely to ever achieve the material superiority which such a philosophy necessitated. Italy had planned for many years for war with France, and Italian strategists had recognized the inherent, and unlikely to change, quantitative superiority of the French over the Italian fleet." - Albert A. Nofi, Strategy & Tactics #26, March-April 1971

"The treaty...defined the position of Great Britain towards the Triple Alliance, and foreshadowed the policy which this country would pursue in the event of the French fleet gaining a complete ascendancy over that of Italy in the Mediterranean." - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Naval Treaty", Strand Magazine, October 1893

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On the afternoon of Sunday 11 July we played host to John Boshara, Pete Comber, George Grayson, Ken Levinson, Sam Nierenberg, Gene Prosnitz, George Schelz, and Pete Weber for a day of Diplomacy. Levinson's Russia was eliminated, and Grayson's Italy down to one unit when, after 7 game years, a draw was agreed between a western alliance of England (Schelz), France (Weber), and Germany (Nierenberg) on the one hand, and an eastern entente of Austria-Hungary (Prosnitz), Turkey (Comber), and Italy on the other.

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Gary Jones, with this issue, resumes the rule of Germany in 1970BQ. (Brenton Ver Ploeg had been minding the store for him.) He also has a new address: 525 Perrylee, Gallatin, Tenn. 37066. His phone number is 615-452-3527. His move is to take up a full-time pastorate - some occupation for a Diplomacy player, eh?

George Grayson is now back in the New York metropolitan area at 1674 Chapin Ave., Merrick, N. Y. 11566; 516-546-1877 or -1878. He has just begun a one-year residency, specializing in chest diseases.

GRAUSTARK #243

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F I R S T C L A S S M A I L